

58. Drastic reductions had to be made in the Child Search Programme immediately. After 1 April 1950 no further children were registered, although the work of identifying and documenting children already found continued until 31 August. After that date the Child Search Headquarters (Esslingen) was liquidated and all records removed to Arolsen. Incoming enquiries were handled on the same basis as those for adults.

59. In all sections of the ITS plans were made immediately to reduce personnel, meanwhile concentrating on the major work of processing material for the NTBs. International staff, which totalled 144 on 1 January 1950, numbered only 30 by December of that year, and indigenous personnel 1,113 as against 1,912. The Berlin Liaison Office had already been closed. The United States Zone division was closed down in September and the British Zone division in December, leaving only field representatives with a very reduced staff to complete the work of locating and checking graves. Records from these field offices were transferred to ITS headquarters at Arolsen.

#### G. TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY

60. In September 1950 the Allied High Commission, having been approached regarding the take-over of the ITS, agreed in principle to assume responsibility as of 1 January 1951 and set up a working committee composed of British, French and United States representatives to negotiate the transfer. Although the collection of documents had in the main been completed, there still remained a considerable amount of processing to be done. In order, therefore, to be able to take over the ITS and complete this work so that ultimately the service would represent an information centre only, the High Commission proposed to take over operational responsibility as from 1 April 1951, provided that IRO send eight tracing experts, the cost of whose services would be borne by the IRO, to be attached to the ITS

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for a period of six months. IRO agreed to this arrangement since the sum involved was within the savings effected for the ITS 1949/50 financial year and which had been brought forward for ITS expenditure during the year 1950/51. Further, IRO offered to place at the disposal of the Allied High Commission such office supplies, transport and other IRO equipment as would be necessary to continue the operation. By the middle of February 1951, these negotiations had been satisfactorily concluded.

#### H. CONCLUSION

61. The Director-General feels certain that Member Governments take the greatest satisfaction in having been associated with work of such great humanitarian significance. The importance of feeding and clothing refugees and re-establishing them firmly is evident; what is perhaps not so evident, and yet perhaps of equal importance, has been the effects on the morale of these unhappy people of successful tracing and reuniting of lost relatives.

62. In conclusion the Director-General would like to call attention to gracious tributes paid to the services rendered by the ITS in the form of messages from Belgium, Canada, France, Denmark, England, Israel, Netherlands, South Africa and Sweden. Furthermore, the Council of the Netherlands Red Cross has awarded to the Director of the ITS and the British and United States zonal division chief its decoration "pro merito". The Director-General himself would like to commend most highly Mr. Thudichum and the entire ITS staff for their very considerable achievements during the last three years, particularly taking into account the great difficulties which had to be faced and overcome.

63. On behalf of members of the ITS staff, as well as on his own behalf, the Director-General wishes also to express to the Allied High Commission and its Working Committee his deep appreciation of their understanding and co-operation, which has made possible and facilitated the transfer of the ITS, thereby saving